

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 220239Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7325

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 0514

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: NA/A

TAGS: MARR, XO, AS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER FRASER ON INDIAN OCEAN

FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE MELBOURNE AGE ON JANUARY 22,  
1976: QTE PM REFLECTS PEACE BID. REDS HOLD SWAY IN OCEAN, HE  
SAYS. FROM RUSSELL SKELTON.

QTE CANBERRA -- THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. FRASER, YESTERDAY  
FORMALLY ABANDONED THE FORMER GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR A ZONE  
OF PEACE, NEUTRALITY AND FRIENDSHIP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.

QTE HIS MOVE WAS A MAJOR REFUFF TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH  
EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) IN ITS BID TO ESTABLISH THE ZONE.

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QTE IT FOLLOWS HARD ON MR. FRASER'S VISIT TO KUALA LUMPUR AND

SINGAPORE, WHERE HE HELD TALKS WITH ASEAN LEADERS.  
QTE OBSERVERS SEE THE DECISION AS A FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE  
WHICH RANKS IN IMPORTANCE WITH MR. FRASER'S DETERMINATION TO  
TAKE AN INDEPENDENT LINE ON INDONESIA'S INTERVENTION IN EAST  
TIMOR.

QTE INNER QUOTE THE OBJECTIVE OF A NEUTRAL ZONE IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN IS AN IDEA WHICH I THINK HAS LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS,  
END INNER QUOTE MR. FRASER SAID.

QTE INNER QUOTE WHILE THE OBJECTIVE OF A NEUTRAL ZONE IS AN  
ADMIRABLE ONE WHICH I CAN UNDERSTAND, I THINK THE REALITY OF  
ACHIEVING IT, GIVEN THE ATTITUDES OF THE SOVIET UNION, IS  
UNLIKELY, END INNER QUOTE HE SAID.

QTE MR. FRASER'S COMMENTS CAME DURING AN INTERVIEW WITH A  
JAPANESE NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIVE.

QTE THE MOVE BY ASEAN WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT A SUPER POWER  
BUILD-UP IN THE OCEAN.

QTE THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, MR. WHITLAM, SUPPORTED MOVES  
AT THE UNITED NATIONS, TO SET UP A PEACE ZONE.

QTE MR. FRASER WARNED THAT SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN WAS THREE TIMES GREATER THAN THAT OF THE UNITED STATES.

QTE HE SAID THE SOVIET UNION USED SEA POWER TO BACK UP  
IMPORTANT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES IN COUNTRIES BORDERING THE  
OCEAN.

QTE INNER QUOTE THE SAILING TIME OF RUSSIAN SHIPS IS THREE  
TIMES FOR EVERY SAILING TIME OF AN AMERICAN SHIP, ED INNER  
QUOTE MR. FRASER SAID.

QTE YESTERDAY WAS THE FIRST TIME THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAD  
RELEASED STATISTICS ON THE SOVIET BUILD-UP. BUT MR. FRASER  
DID NOT GIVE PRECISE FIGURES ABOUT THE FIREPOWER OF THE  
SOVIET FLEET.

QTE MR. FRASER AGAIN STRONGLY DEFENDED THE BUILD-UP OF THE  
UNITED STATES NAVAL FACILITY AT DIEGO GARCIA IN THE INDIAN  
OCEAN.

QTE INNER QUOTE THERE NEEDS TO BE A BALANCE, AND THE ONLY  
POWER THAT CAN PROVIDE THAT BALANCE REALLY IS THE UNITED  
STATES.

QTE INNER QUOTE AUSTRALIA CERTAINLY HAS NOT THE CAPACITY TO  
ACHIEVE THAT BALANCE ALTHOUGH WE NEED TO MAKE OUR CONTRIBUTION.  
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TION. END INNER QUOTE

QTE HE ADDED: INNER QUOTE THOSE WHO DIRECT THEIR CRITICISM  
AT THE UNITED STATES OFTEN DO NOT DIRECT THEIR CRITICISM AT  
RUSSIA. END INNER QUOTE

QTE MR. FRASER SAID THE APPROACH OF SOVIET SHIPS TO THE  
COAST OF ANGOLA DEFINITELY HAD AN EFFECT ON THE CONFLICT.

QTE INNER QUOTE THE USE OF SEA POWER AS A WEAPON IN DIPLOMACY  
HAS OFTEN BEEN USED, END INNER QUOTE HE SAID.

QTE OUTLINING AUSTRALIA'S ATTITUDE TO THE SUPERPOWER BUILD-UP,  
MR. FRASER SAID: INNER QUOTE WE WOULD SUPPORT NO GREAT POWER  
HAVING ANY DOMINATING INFLUENCE IN THE SEAN REGION BECAUSE  
THAT IS ONLY LIKELY TO LEAD TO OTHER GREAT POWERS TRYING TO  
COUNTER THAT DOMINATING INFLUENCE. END INNER QUOTE

QTE GOOD IDEA

QTE HE SAID JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA MIGHT JOIN IN MUTUAL INITIATIVES  
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC.

QTE INNER QUOTE I BELIEVE IT'S A GOOD IDEA FOR JAPAN AND  
AUSTRALIA TO IDENTIFY AREAS IN WHICH THEY'VE GOT A COMMON  
INTEREST.

QTE INNER QUOTE WE BOTH HAVE VERY SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS IN THE  
WESTERN PACIFIC AND IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.  
CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN US ARE, I THINK, OF QUITE AND IMPORTANCE  
FOR THE SECURITY OF THE REGION. END INNER QUOTE END QUOTE.

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